(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a 'decision to strengthen the distribution system of LPG in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a phase manner throughout the country including Punjab, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new costomer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

Actual enrolment and projections of new LPG connections during VIII Plan (1992-93 to
1996-97) are given below:—

Figure in lakhs

Year	No. of new LPG connec tions enrolment (actual/ planned)
1992-93	8.7 (actual)
1993-94	13.6 (actual)
1994-95	22.9 (actual)
1995-96	15.0 (target)
1996-97	40.0 (planned)

State-wise targets are not fixed.

The plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting supply through higher imports. New Import facilities for LPG are under construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned by October, 1996. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorship are being opened by Government oil companies to cater to higher demand.

In order to increase the availability of LPG in the country in addition to what is available through public sector oil companies, Government in February, 1993 decided to all allow the import and sale of LPG by private agencies.

In addition to 3 existing LPG bottling plants in Punjab, Government Oil Companies are planning to set up one more LPG bottling plant at Patiala during VIII Plan. In addition to 35 LPG distributorships included in 92-94 LPG Marketing Plan for Punjab, 41 more LPG distributorships have been included in LPG Marketing Plan 94-96 for Punjab.

Accidents Caused By Redlines Buses

1571. SHRI KRISHAN" LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Pioneer dated 11th May, 1995 under the heading "No drive can curb errant Redline bus drivers";

(b) the number of traffic violations and accidents caused by Redline buses during 1994 and so far in 1995;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the reasons of non-observance of any traffic code inspite of so many drives launched in the capital; and

(d) whether any deterrent action has been taken against any Redline bus operator/driver for causing accidents and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir, however, the said report appeared in the Pioneer dated 21-5-95.

(b) The number of traffic violations and accidents by Redline buses are as under:

	Traffic Violations	Accidents
1994	86,617	921
1995 (upto 31.7.95)	52,640	597

(c) As regards the Government of Delhi, no specific study has been conducted in this regard.

(d) Besides suspension of permits of Redline buses involved in fatal accidents, 6718 drivers were arrested and 4925 vehicles impounded from 1-1-94 to 31-7-95.

News-Item Regarding Hawkers Problems in Delhi

1572. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: